



<b>Name of Project:</b>	Flexible Choices - Vermont's Cash & Counseling Program
<b>Name of Organization:</b> and	Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging, Independent Living, Waterbury, VT
<b>Choices for Independence Principle:</b>	Consumer Direction/Community Living Incentive

**Description:**

Flexible Choices, Vermont's Cash & Counseling Program, is an option within the state's Choices for Care 1115 long-term care waiver for the aged and adults with disabilities. Flexible Choices makes the receipt of home and community-based services an equally accessible option as nursing home care for eligible consumers. Flexible Choices seeks to expand and make home-based options more flexible by providing a budget, based on the value of all allowed home-based services under the waiver, for consumers to use to purchase the care and services they need. These services include personal care, respite, companion, home modifications, adult day, equipment, and case management services. Program enrollment began during the summer of 2006.

Key partners in planning and development of the program include the State Agency on Aging, Home Health, Independent Living Centers, Advocacy groups including COVE and consumers. Partners also include private organizations, Transition Two and ARIS Solutions, who are providing assistance with care management and fiscal intermediary services respectively.

Major outcomes include approval of an 1115 waiver which is the basis for the program, and current enrollment of almost half - 22 individuals – of the pilot goal of 50 individuals, with the ultimate goal to include at least 250 individuals in the program.

This project works because of the State's and its partners' interest in making expanding consumer direction and rebalancing long-term care in Vermont. It also contributes to the overall goal of making Vermont a great state in which to grow old or to live with a disability ~ with dignity, respect and independence. This program adds to the growing number of Cash and Counseling projects and will provide additional experience for replication.

For more information, please contact: Merle Edwards-Orr, Project Director at 802-241-4496

or by email at [merle.edwards-orr@dail.state.vt.us](mailto:merle.edwards-orr@dail.state.vt.us)

Website: [www.dad.state.vt.us](http://www.dad.state.vt.us)